

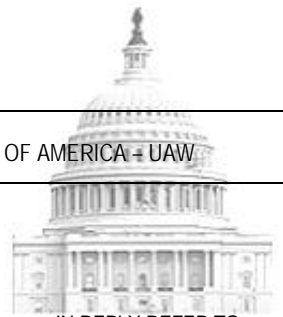


INTERNATIONAL UNION, UNITED AUTOMOBILE, AEROSPACE & AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKERS OF AMERICA - UAW

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IN REPLY REFER TO

September 15, 2008

1757 N STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036
TELEPHONE: (202) 828-8500
FAX (202) 293-3457

Dear Representative:

The UAW supports the "James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act of 2008" (H.R. 6594), sponsored by Representative Carolyn Maloney. We urge you to join in cosponsoring and supporting this important measure.

This bi-partisan legislation would provide medical surveillance and services to responders and others suffering serious diseases as a result of hazardous exposures resulting from the 9/11 terrorist attacks, at no cost to the patients. It would reopen the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund (VCF) to provide compensation for economic losses and harm as an alternative to the current litigation system.

After the attacks of September 11, 2001, tens of thousands of workers rushed to the World Trade Center (WTC) to assist in rescue and recovery operations. These workers, as well as residents and others near Ground Zero, were exposed to a toxic mix of dust and fumes from the collapse of the WTC and from the subsequent fires, some of which lingered for weeks. As a result, nearly 70 percent of responders examined by the Mount Sinai School of Medicine suffered respiratory problems. One-third suffered significant loss of lung function. The FDNY found that rescue workers suffered an average loss of 12 years of lung capacity. Many of those who are sick can no longer work. Their worker compensation claims are being contested and they have lost their health insurance. These workers are in dire need of medical treatment.

For the past several years, Congress has designated funding for the WTC Worker and Volunteer Medical Screening Program. For the past year, additional funds have been appropriated for medical treatment for WTC responders who are sick. But this funding is only a short-term stopgap measure.

H.R. 6594 would provide a comprehensive long-term solution. It would establish the WTC Health Program, under the direction of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), to provide medical monitoring and treatment for WTC-related health conditions for responders and area residents. It would build on the existing programs to provide high quality care through clinical centers in New York City that have already been providing similar care, and through additional clinical centers to provide monitoring and treatment for those


outside the New York area. Coordinating Centers of Excellence would be established to develop uniform treatment protocols and collect and analyze data.

The 9/11 attacks were attacks on our entire nation. Compelled by a moral obligation, the United States has acted to compensate and care for the injured and the surviving family members of those who were killed. The UAW believes the same moral obligation should now lead Congress to meet the needs of 9/11 rescue, recovery, and clean-up workers and area residents who became ill because of their exposure to WTC hazards.

Accordingly, the UAW urges you to cosponsor and support the "James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act of 2008" (H.R. 6594). To cosponsor this legislation, please contact Anna Cielinski in Rep. Maloney's office at 202-225-7944.

Thank you for considering our views on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Alan Reuther". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Alan" being more prominent than the last name "Reuther".

Alan Reuther
Legislative Director

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